A True DESCRIPTION OF JAMAICA,

With the Fertility, Commodities, and Healthfulnes of the place.

As also

The Towns, Havens, Creeks, Promontories, and the Circuit of the whole Island.

LONDON,
Printed by *J. M.* 1657.

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LONDON,
Printed by J. G. M. 1671.

A True DESCRIPTION OF JAMAICA,

With the Fertility, Commodities, and Healthfulness of the Place.

THis Island is scituated West from *Hispaniola*, South from *Cuba*, which *Columbus* heretofore called the Isle of St. *James*, but its now better known by the name of *Jamaica*. The eighteenth Degree of Northern Latitude cuts the middle of it. It is of equal distance from

the two former great Islands, *viz.* twenty Leagues from each. The compass or circuit of the Island is an hundred and fifty leagues; its length from East to West is fifty leagues, the bredth is twenty, or better. This Island excels the others for the goodness both of the Ayr, and bounty of the soyl, it is for the most part a plain and even Country, yeilding in great abundance whatsoever is necessary for mans life. It breeds and nourishes very great store of Horses, Bulls, Cows, and Hogs: The Yucam (whereof Cassavi is made) is so plenteous, as that this Island (and most deservedly) may be reckoned the Granary of the rest of the Islands; Cotton-wool grows very frequently up and down the Island, which makes it to excel most in clothing; also whatever fruits God and Nature have planted from the beginning, or have by the industry and diligence of man been transplanted thither from any other part, do thrive in this Land wonderfully. The Spaniards, when first they arrived here, found the Island very well furnished with barbarous people, which since are strangely decreased, partly through the cruelty of their Lords, partly by reason of their own sloth and idleness.

The Towns here (considering the bravery and goodness of the Island) are but few in number: at this day not above three, the chief of which is *Sevil*, upon the North side of the Island, not far from the Sea. Here was an Abbaty, whereof *Peter Martyr*, that famous Writer of the Indian affairs,

affairs, was sometimes Abbot. The next Town to this, at an eleven Leagues distance Eastward, stands *Melilla*, famous for *Columbus* his Shipwrack, when in a tempestuous passage that he had from *Veragua*, he would so gladly have put in thither. The third Town is *Oristan*, upon the west side of the Island, fourteen Leagues from Sevil: But of the City *de la Vega*, whence the *Columbi* had the Title of their Dukedom, there is scarce at this time any memorial or remembrance.

A great part of this Island, with the chief City of it, was subdued in the year 1596. by Sir *Anthony Sherley*.

The Sea shore, where it most vergeth and bendeth it self toward the East, hath the high Promontory *Moranta* upon it, from which the said shore goes back by little and little toward the Southwest, taking in the Sea in certain Creeks, then it goes directly forward toward the West so far as to the Promontory *de Falcon*, whence it turns to the westward, till it come to the Promontory *del Negrillo*, which lies outmost to the West, from thence again the shore turns in towards the East: In the Northern quarter of it, it hath many Stations and Ports, the chief of which lies nigh to *Sevil*, the next to *Melilla*, ten leagues from the former to the Eastward; the third *Ianta*, a like distance off, ten leagues from the former, and as many from the Promontory of *Moranta*, towards the west.

In short, this Island for the richness and goodness of the soyl, for the pleasantness of its woods,

and

and the abundance of all good things, may very well contend with any other of the American Islands whatever, and in this respect excels them, that it hath so convenient and advantagious a scituation between the greater Islands and the Western Continent of *America*: So as if our Countrymen would but raise up their dull spirits, and seriously set themselves to plant there, they would not only exceedingly advance the Publique Interest, and benefit their Native Country, but very much advantage and enrich themselves, their children, and posterity; there being no Adventure or Merchandize in any part of the world undertaken as yet by the English, that is like to be of less hazard, and more certain profit, as evidently appears, in that he that first discovered those Countries, and best knew to make his choice, was only a Suitor for this Island; and when afterward he was asked by the Portugal why he did not cause the mines there to be wrought; he made answer, They would first go farther off, and when they had wrought out those, they would return thither, being a place nearer home, and of great security. I need not inform you of the great variety of Fish, and Fowl, nor the healthfulness of the place, when a man hath some little time been acquainted with the Ayr.

And so my Countrymen, wishing such noble thoughts to possess your souls, as may encline you to some gallant endeavour and undertaking therein, that after times may say, this active Age hath not confin'd us to one poor corner of the earth, but

stirr'd

ſtirr'd us up to look upon that [illegible] which the negligence of our Anceſtors did cauſe them to [illegible] unhappily to foreſlow and forſake, I recommend you to the direction and Aſſiſtance of the Almighty.

FINIS.

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